



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of:)	Attorney Docket No. 087522785155
Coeffield et al.)	
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Application No.: 09/882,140)	
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Filed: June 15, 2001)	
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For: CHAIR BACK CONSTRUCTION)	
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Examiner: Harris, Stephanie N.)	
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Art Unit: 3636)	
)	
Confirmation No.: 9254)	

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-10 (Cancelled)

Claim 11 (Previously Amended) A back for a chair comprising:

a fabric panel;

a bendable carrier extending around the periphery of and fastened to edges of the fabric panel, said carrier being configured to be fastened along a bottom edge to a first frame member of said chair; and

flexible joint means at opposed upper corners of said carrier;

said joint means being configured to be connectable to upper portions of second frame members;

wherein said flexible joint means and said bendable carrier allow said fabric panel to flex as a chair user reclines against said fabric panel to thereby distribute forces against the user's back.

Claim 12 (Original) The back of claim 11 wherein said flexible joint means are sockets configured to receive a spherical member of said second frame members.

Claim 13 (Original) The back of claim 12 wherein said sockets are formed by apertures in said carrier.

Claim 14 (Original) The back of claim 13 including retainers disposed on each side of said apertures to form said sockets.

Claim 15 (Original) The back of claim 11 wherein said fabric is of open mesh construction.

Claim 16 (Original) The back of claim 15 wherein said fabric includes woven multifilaments and monofilaments.

Claim 17 (Original) The back of claim 11 wherein said carrier is a two piece structure and edges of said fabric are clamped between said two pieces.

Claim 18 (Original) The back of claim 17 wherein glue is provided to retain said fabric edges in said carrier.

Claim 19 (Withdrawn)

Claim 20 (Withdrawn)

Claim 21 (Previously Added) A back for a chair comprising in combination:
a fabric mesh;

a carrier extending around a periphery of said fabric mesh and fastened thereto and having a bottom, a top and two side edges, said fabric mesh and said carrier being stretchable in a generally vertical direction;

a horizontally extending transverse chair frame member;

two vertically extending chair frame supports having diverging upper portions, said two vertically extending chair frame supports being fastened to said horizontally extending transverse chair frame member and each support terminating in a spherical end portion;

said bottom edge of said carrier being attached to said horizontally extending transverse chair frame member along substantially the entire length of said bottom edge; and

a first aperture formed through said carrier located at the intersection of one side edge and said top edge of said carrier and a second aperture formed through said carrier located at the intersection of the other side edge and said top edge of said carrier, wherein said carrier is stretched from attachment to said horizontally extending transverse chair frame member to engage each said spherical end portion of said two vertically extending and diverging chair frame supports by having each spherical end portion received in a respective aperture.

Claim 22 (New) A chair back for an office chair wherein the office chair includes a base, a plurality of casters connected to said base, a vertically adjustable column mounted to said base, a support structure mounted to swivel on said vertically adjustable column, a generally horizontally disposed seat assembly connected to said support structure, and a back assembly connected to said support structure, said office chair having a forward portion, a rearward portion and left and right side portions, said side portions defining a lateral direction, said forward and rearward portions defining a longitudinal direction and moving between said base and said seat assembly defining an upward direction, the back assembly comprising;

an upwardly extending back material structure, said back material structure having an upper portion, a bottom portion and left and right side portions, said back material structure positioned to engage a back of a user sitting in said office chair, said back material structure being flexible, and said back material structure being mounted to flex in response to pressure from said back of said user to support said user;

an upwardly extending back frame structure positioned external of said back material structure, said back frame structure being spaced from said back material structure, said back

frame structure extending upwardly from said support structure, said back frame structure connected to said back material structure only at said bottom portion of said back material structure and toward said upper portion of said back material structure; and

a lumbar support structure mounted to said back frame structure and extending laterally to contact only said left and right side portions of said back material structure.

Claim 23 (New) The office chair of claim 22 wherein:

said upwardly extending back frame structure has an upper portion that is flared laterally and is connected to said back material structure at only two locations.

Claim 24 (New) The office chair of claim 23 wherein:

said laterally flared upper portion of said upwardly extending back frame structure terminates at two discrete end portions, said two discrete end portions contacting said back material structure at said two locations.

Claim 25 (New) The office chair of claim 22 wherein:

said lumbar support structure is vertically adjustable relative to said upwardly extending back frame structure.

Claim 26 (New) The office chair of claim 25 wherein:

said lumbar support structure is mounted on said upwardly extending back frame structure to slide generally vertically along said upwardly extending back frame structure.

Claim 27 (New) The office chair of claim 22 wherein:

said upwardly extending back frame structure has an upper portion that is flared laterally and is connected to said back material structure at only two locations; and

said lumbar support structure is vertically adjustable relative to said upwardly extending back frame structure.

Claim 28 (New) The office chair of claim 27 wherein:
said laterally flared upper portion of said upwardly extending back frame structure terminates at two discrete end portions, said two discrete end portions contacting said back material structure at said two locations; and

said lumbar support structure is mounted on said upwardly extending back frame structure to slide generally vertically along said upwardly extending back frame structure.

Claim 29 (New) The office chair of claim 2 wherein:

said back material structure is curved in a lateral direction and in an upward direction.

Claim 30 (New) The office chair of claim 1 wherein:

said upwardly extending back frame structure extends from said support structure in a rearwardly longitudinal direction before turning in an upward direction and then in a forwardly longitudinal direction.

Claim 31 (New) The office chair of claim 30 wherein:

said back material structure is curved in a lateral direction and in an upward direction.

Claim 32 (New) The office chair of claim 31 wherein:

said upwardly extending back frame structure has an upper portion that is flared laterally and is connected to said back material structure at only two locations.

Claim 33 (New) The office chair of claim 32 wherein:

said lumbar support structure is vertically adjustable relative to said upwardly extending back frame structure.

Claim 34 (New) The office chair of claim 33 wherein:

said laterally flared upper portion of said upwardly extending back frame structure terminates at two discrete end portions, said two discrete end portions contacting said back material structure at said two locations; and

said lumbar support structure is mounted on said upwardly extending back frame structure to slide generally vertically along said upwardly extending back frame structure.